THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A sum of Rs. 10 crores has been allocated to the N.C.R. Planning Board for the year 1990-91.

(d) An integrated Investment Plan for Rs. 2900 crores (Central Sector — Rs. 1750 crores, State Sector — Rs. 1150 crores) has been prepared by the N.C.R. Planning Board for the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Number of Registered Unemployed in the Country

228. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) What is the number of registered unemployed in the country as on 30th April, 1990; and

(b) What is the number of educated unempolyed among them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per latest available information, 332.27 lakh jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unempolyed, were on the live register of employment exchanges in the country at the end of February, 1990.

(b) Information relating to educated job-seekers is available upto 31st December, 1988 only. As on that date there were 175.12 lakh (Provisional) educated job-seekers Matriculates and above) on the live register of employment exchanges out of 300.50 lakh total job-seekers.

Atrocities on SC/STs

229. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have shown an upward trend during the last two months;

(b) if so, the names of the States and the number of such incidents reported during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken to protect such sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected.

(c) The Government of India has recently enacted the law: "The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989" which has come into force with effect from 30.1.1990. This Act identifies various types of atrocities, provides for effective machinery to quickly deal with such cases, such as Special Courts and Special Public Prosecutors, and provides for stringent punishments to persons committing atrocities including the public servants who neglect their duties. Most of the State Governments have set up Special Courts and Special Public Prosecutors. The State Governments have also been advised to provide exclusive Special Courts wherever needed to ensure the conduct of day to day trial of the offences under this Act.

Filling up of Vacant Posts in the Railways

230. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn into the statement of the trade union leaders of the railway employees which appeared in the Indian Express of 10th April, 1990 regarding the ban on filling up of vacancies in the railways which has resulted in trains being run without guards and ticket-windows being without clerks;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the number of vacancies of different cadres in different Zonal railways which have not been filled for nearly one year; and

(d) the steps taken to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) In the news item which appeared in the Indian Express on 10.4.90 under the caption "Railwaymen demand wage policy" it has been mentioned *inter-alia* that trains were being run without guards and Ticket windows without clerks in the name of the economy and manpower productivity. This news item purports to be a report relating to the two day convention at Mathura of the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen.

(b) to (d) There is no ban as such on filling vacancies. The occurrence and filling of vacancies is a continued process. Hence it would not be correct to say that vacancies are kept merely to achieve economy and improve labour productivity.

The information regarding vacancies existing for more than one year as on 1-4-1990 in the categories of guards and Booking Clerks, is being collected from the Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Opening of more Fair Price Shops in Rajasthan.

231. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of fair price shops in Rajasthan; and

(b) what is the total number of fair price shops in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) The opening of new fair price shops in the respective areas is the concern of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Rajasthan Government has opened 221 new fair price shops during April to December, 1989.

(b) A statement giving the total number of fair price shops in the country, Statewise, is anexed.

Statement

Information regarding number of Fair Price Shops.

(As on 30-9-1989)

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of FPS	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35443	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	530	
3.	Assam	24175	
4.	Bihar	39627	(Relates to March 1988)
5.	Gujarat	11982	
6.	Goa	547	